

Jamaica ginger, and on its distribution. To that end Senate Bill 930 was introduced by Senator McKinley, being

"An act to add a new section to the Penal Code to be numbered section 347b, relating to the sale and use of fluid extract of Jamaica ginger or any preparation or compound containing triorthocresyl phosphate, and declaring the urgency thereof."

This urgency measure was passed by the Legislature and was placed before Governor James J. Rolph, Jr., who signed it, so that it became a law on April 17.

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Inadequacy of Federal Pure Drug Laws and of Interstate Shipment Regulations.—It is to be regretted that the federal pure food and drug laws are not sufficiently drastic to have permitted the United States Public Health Service, which made its original announcement last October, to have gone after the manufacturers of this spurious Jamaica ginger and to have penalized both the makers and the wholesale distributors thereof in different states of the Union. Had that been done the two hundred Los Angeles County cases of paralysis and the three deaths from this poison might have been avoided.

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American Medical Association Council of Pharmacy Might Recommend Additional Federal Legislation.—This and similar adulterants might well receive the consideration of the American Medical Association Council on Pharmacy and the American Medical Association Bureau of Legal Medicine. Pressure on Congress, with such an example as "Jake paralysis" poisonings as a concrete talking point, would be far more apt to result in strengthening the federal pure food and drug laws than would be apt to occur when only cold-blooded and abstract pleas for such additional laws were made. In these days congressmen want an alert public to be in back of them when they sponsor such legislation. Our federal pure food and drug laws need revision. Why not whip such proposed amendments into form before the next Congress convenes?

THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— PROGRESS REPORT

California Legislature Will Adjourn May 8.—At the California Medical Association annual session in San Francisco on April 27-30 reports will be given by the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation on the status of public health and medical measures now pending before the California Legislature. The legislature is in session as this copy goes forward to the printer, but the adjournment date has been set for May 8, which is about the time this May number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE will be placed in the mails.

The delegates present at the San Francisco meeting will have heard the reports of California Medical Association officers and committees, and

will carry back to their county societies a summary of what has been done in legislative matters. But what may happen at Sacramento between the close of the California Medical Association annual session and the day of adjournment of the biennial California Legislature no one is in position at this time to foretell. However, since a goodly number of members of the California Medical Association are interested in these legislative matters which are of such great importance to the further development of organized medicine in California, additional comments on some of the proposed laws in which the medical profession is directly or indirectly involved should be in order.

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The Fellom Bill (S. 175) Which Would Give Corporations the Right to Practice Medicine for Profit.—In last month's issue of this journal, Senate Bill 175 was discussed. It was stated that the measure had gotten out of committee through a surprise maneuver. Fortunately there were enough senatorial friends of the medical profession to prevent immediate action, and it was sent back to committee for a further hearing. At the said hearing, a week or so later, at which medical representatives from different parts of California were present, the bill was tabled by the committee. The next day, however, through the application of the rule of senatorial courtesy, the bill was again brought out of committee to the Senate floor. At the time this account is being written it has gotten as far up as the third reading file of the Senate.

As has been previously emphasized, this bill (S. 175—Fellom) is the measure which would give corporations the right to practice medicine for profit. If it should go on to passage and signature by Governor Rolph, this measure would go far in debasing medical and public health standards. The bill is being carefully watched by the California Medical Association Committee on Public Policy and Legislation and will be fought at every turn by friends of the medical profession.

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Thanks Should Be Given to Legislators Who Aid.—Those legislators, by the way, who stand firm in defense of public health standards which the medical profession holds dear should not be forgotten when they return to their home communities, but should be the recipients of proper thanks from their respective county medical societies. When administrative officers and legislators learn that physicians are intelligent observers of proceedings at Sacramento and that they have memories, both for those who support and for those who do not support public health standards, it will be found that some of our legislative problems will become much simplified. So let those Senators and Assemblymen who have stood firm for proper standards know you are and will be appreciative in word and deed.

Another Cult and Its Proposed Licensing Board.—To show what transitions can take place through parliamentary amendments in the legislature, Assembly Bill No. 1234 (Gilmore) may be here cited. That measure, as originally presented, presumably was intended to deal with certain criminal jurisdictions of Justice Courts, etc., but at the time these words are being written the measure has undergone such a transformation and metamorphosis that it now would legalize a California Board of Masseurology!

What was said on page 284 in the April CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE concerning a proposed Board of Naturopathic Examiners (Assembly Bill 1281) would apply also to this "Board of Masseurology" act which would permit its licentiates to do physiotherapy, physical culture, prescribe drugs and do all "except major surgery." The strange part of such cultist bills is that such measures often receive staunch support from their legislator sponsors so that much time and effort must be used to kill the measures.

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How a "Qualifying Certificate" (Basic Science) Law Might Help.—Such attempts to create new cultist boards emphasize the value of a "Qualifying Certificate" (so-called Basic Science) Board, whose fundamental educational qualifications would be made applicable to all schools of the healing art. With such a "Qualifying Certificate" law, passed by initiative act, such attempts by new cultist groups as those just mentioned would probably die "a-borning." It is the only effective plan which occurs to the editor by means of which these biennial struggles with proposed laws which would create new cultist boards may be kept down to a minimum.

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The M. D. Director of Institutions Bill.—Let us take another measure (Assembly Bill 1110—Sewell), sponsored originally in part by the representatives of the California Medical Association because it provided that the Director of the California Department of Institutions (see article by Doctor Hunter in March CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 164) should be a physician. This unfortunate bill in the last several weeks has had so many amendments tacked on by legislators that it no longer has anything to do with the primary purpose of a director physician, but deals now largely with repairs in the State Capitol Building at Sacramento!

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Another Fellow Bill.—Another new measure that has come to the front during the last several days (as these lines are written) is one of Senator Fellom's skeleton bills, whereby all investigators and enforcement officers of all examining boards (of which the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California is one) would be removed from the immediate jurisdiction of the Board of Medical Examiners. And so it goes.

The State Medical Libraries Bill.—Assembly Bill 477 (Neilson) for state medical libraries was commented upon in the April CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 284. The bill as there outlined should have an excellent chance to go on to passage. The only change made in it has been to reduce the amount of funds to be allocated from the contingent fund of the Board of Medical Examiners. Through conference and agreement with Colonel Carlos Huntington, director of the Department of Professional and Vocational Standards, it was decided to leave about one hundred and thirty thousand dollars in the contingent or reserve fund of the Board of Medical Examiners, thus reducing the sum to be allocated to the University of California for the major state medical libraries at San Francisco and Los Angeles from about seventy thousand dollars to about fifty thousand dollars. If this measure goes on to passage and signature by Governor Rolph it will be possible for every physician in California to have come to him the latest and other medical literature in which he may be interested. That is a something devoutly to be wished for.

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County Societies Should Know Somewhat of Candidates.—Several other proposed bills might be discussed at this time, but space indicates that their consideration must lie over for later comment. The San Francisco annual session report of the California Medical Association Committee on Public Policy and Legislation, of which Dr. Junius B. Harris is chairman, will be printed in the June number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE and should be read by all members of the California Medical Association.

The experience of the California Medical Association officers and the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation this year has not been radically different from that which has been had in previous legislative sessions. And there is nothing to indicate that the profession can be less alert with future legislatures.

It would aid greatly, however, if physicians in the future would take a more or less active interest in legitimate political matters of a civic nature. The Public Policy and Legislation Committees of county societies should investigate and then inform their fellow members concerning the backgrounds and character of candidates for city councils, county boards of supervisors and the state legislature. It is such public officials who make our city, county and state laws. With such knowledge, support could be given to candidates who have sane and broad outlooks on public health and medical measures. Through such officials, the best interests of the State would be best conserved. But if we want to do these things, it is necessary for physicians to show proper individual and collective interest in these matters. Then almost any legitimate aspiration will be within the realm of possible achievement.